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V.A.C.® Therapy

Patient guide for V.A.C.® Therapy with V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing

Your doctor has prescribed a widely studied* negative pressure wound therapy, V.A.C.® Therapy.

V.A.C.® Therapy is a medical device system that creates an environment that promotes wound healing by delivering negative pressure (a vacuum) to the wound through a proprietary dressing and therapy unit.



V.A.C.® Therapy works to help the wound healing process by:

- Providing a moist wound-healing environment
- Removing wound fluids and infectious materials
- Facilitating blood flow and oxygen into the wound
- Stimulating cellular activity and encouraging new tissue growth
- Reducing the frequency of dressing changes



Your doctor has selected V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing which can be worn for up to seven days[1].

This dressing has multiple features designed to be kind and gentle to the skin, promote wound healing and minimise pain upon dressing removal[2].

*V.A.C.® Therapy has over 2,000 peer-reviewed publications.
[1] SAT-BSER-05-869347 VAC Peel and Place BSER. 510(k) K222859.
[2] CLIN-RPT-CSR-05-015013 Final Report for HHS #1 Dermatac insourced gentleness to skin. 2021

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Important information while using V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing



How do I shower?

- The V.A.C.® Therapy System may be disconnected so you can take a shower. Therapy may not be off any longer than two hours per day. If therapy is off/interrupted for more than two hours, the dressing will need to be changed. Do not soak the dressing.
- Before your shower: Turn off the device, clamp both sides of the tubing and disconnect the dressing tubing from the canister tubing.
- After your shower: Connect the tubing together, unclamp both sides of the tubing and turn on the device.
- Please consult your clinician with additional questions or concerns.



What happens if the V.A.C.® Therapy System alarms?

- The V.A.C.® Therapy System is built with your safety in mind and has alarms to alert you to a potential problem. In most situations, the reason for the alarm is easily fixed.
- Refer to the documents that came with your therapy unit for information on alerts and alarms. If needed, call your clinician or Solventum for assistance. This is something your clinician can explain in more detail, so you are comfortable with your therapy system.



What if there is a leak?

- Smooth down the drape to ensure there are no air bubbles. If the edges roll or there is a leak, place a patch with additional drape such as Dermatac™ Drape or V.A.C.® Drape. If the leak persists, please follow up with your clinician.



Why is my dressing being changed less frequently than other wound therapies?

- The V.A.C.® Peel and Place dressing has been designed and tested to stay in place for up to 7 days.



Why is there an odour coming from the therapy system?

- Wounds treated with V.A.C.® Therapy may have odour due to wound fluids, which contain bacteria and proteins. The type of bacteria and proteins present may be responsible for the type and strength of the odour.
- Your clinician may thoroughly clean the wound during dressing change to minimise the odour. The canister may need to be changed more often to control odour.



When should I call my clinician when on V.A.C.® Therapy?

Immediately contact your clinician if you have any of these symptoms:

- Sudden increase or large amount of blood from the wound in the tubing or canister
- Worsening pain or tenderness at the wound site
- Wound or surrounding area is red, sore, swollen, itchy or a rash is present
- Wound or skin feels hot to the touch
- Change in discharge from the wound, especially new puss, or yellow or thick drainage in the canister or strong odour
- Fever, chills, aches, pains, headache, confusion, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Foul odour coming from the wound



Reminders

- Keep the therapy unit on. If off for more than two hours, the dressing will need to be changed.
- The dressing is intended to be removed only by a clinician, so don't remove it unless instructed to do so. Contact your clinician with any concerns.
- Bring any extra V.A.C.® Therapy dressings to follow-up appointments or have them available for home health visits.
- Plug in the therapy unit to charge it. You should charge the unit as often as you charge your mobile phone.

Contact your clinician with any medical questions. In case of an emergency, immediately call your local emergency contact number (i.e. 000).

Note: Specific indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions and safety information exist for these products and therapies. Please consult a clinician and product Instructions for Use prior to application. This material is intended for healthcare professionals.

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